

FIAC

Forest Industry Association Council

December 5, 2005

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman, Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health
Committee on Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden:

We the undersigned forest products organizations strongly endorse your efforts to pass H.R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act of 2005 (FERRA). The need for timely response to the catastrophic events that we have witnessed in our national forests is the center-piece of this legislation, and it will encourage efforts for rapid restoration of the environment and utilization of damaged trees before they lose their economic value.

America's forests need this legislation to recover from catastrophic events that have plagued our forest lands in recent years and that will continue to occur in the future. With over 190 millions acres of federal forest land at extreme risk to wildfire and over 8.2 million acres of federal and state timberlands having burned in 2005 alone, along with over 1 billion board feet of timber blown down on federal forests from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a new policy of rapid restoration is badly needed.

Too often after catastrophic events it takes our federal government two or three years to implement a recovery plan which includes any restoration and removal efforts in our national forests. Waiting this long does little to rehabilitate the forest and only adds to the problem of further deterioration and degradation of the environment and any product that may be retrieved.

FERRA allows our public forest land managers to become better stewards by quickly assessing environmental needs following catastrophic events and rapidly implementing recovery and rehabilitation projects. Further, the bill has provisions to increase scientific research on the best methods to recover ecosystems damaged by catastrophic events.

Thank you for your continued efforts to help and promote sustainable forestry management through HR 4200. Without this common sense approach, our lands, communities, and quality of life will continue to suffer. We stand ready to help in the passage of the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act of 2005.

Sincerely,

Alabama Forestry Association
Alabama Loggers Council
Alaska Forestry Association
Allegheny Hardwood Users Group
American Forest & Paper Association
American Forest Resource Council
American Loggers Council
Arkansas Forestry Association
California Forestry Association
Florida Forestry Association
Forest Resources Association
Harwood Federation
Intermountain Forest Association
Lumbermen's Association of Texas – serving building dealers in Texas AND Louisiana
Louisiana Forestry Association
Massachusetts Wood Producers Association
Minnesota Forest Industries
Minnesota Timber Producers Association
Montana Logging Association
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
Northeastern Loggers' Association
Oregon Forest Industries Council
South Carolina Timber Producers Association
Southern Appalachian Multiple-Use Council
Texas Forestry Association
The Railroad Tie Association
Treated Wood Council
Virginia Forestry Association
Wisconsin Paper Council